Martin Teetor, inventor of an adding machine,
and the Teetor Adding Machine Company he headed.

Some time ago I searched for information about adding machines, and other office appliances. I found ads and articles about a Teetor adding machine, that I had never read or heard about. This lead to a search for the history of the Teetor Adding Machine Company, and of Martin Teetor, the man behind it.

Martin Teetor was born November 11 1862. He married Minnie J. Randolph April 8 1888. They had a daughter, Evelyn.

Martin Teetor was a watchmaker with the Marquard wholesale jewelry house. Repairing adding machines he became interested in their construction. He designed and built the Teetor adding and subtracting machine. The Teetor Adding Machine Company was formed December 18 1916.

Martin Teetor died of paralysis December 24 1920.

On December 24 1921 a fire destroyed the building where the Teetor Adding Machine Company was located, causing around half a million dollar in damages.
In 1922 the Teetor Adding Machine had moved to Los Angeles, and built a factory in Pomona. By March 1923 the building had been completed, and production started around August 1923. According to an article from February 5 1924, they were looking for another location. What happened after that, I was unable to find, but they had become inoperative and void by March 17 1926.

I also found Martin Teetor tied to the start of the Butler Machinery Company in Des Moines, but I do not know if it is the same man.

Last update March 30 2021 - Bosj

Titlepage.png

Electrically Driven Adding Machine

From *Electrical Merchandising*, July, 1918

Direct addition and subtraction without mental calculations or complicated and indirect mechanical operations can be accomplished with the adding machine manufactured by the Teetor Adding Machine Company of Des Moines, Iowa. This makes it possible to list debit and credit items as they occur and to obtain the net result at the completion of the operation. All operating levers are on the right of the machine, which leaves the left hand free to turn pages, etc.

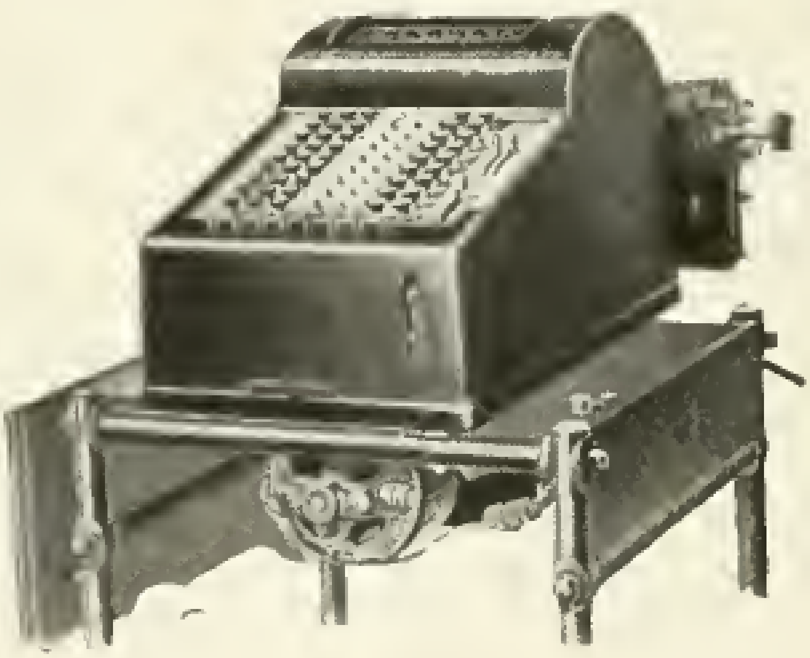
A complete line of electric statement machines, bookkeeping machines and special machines for various classes of business is to be offered to the trade at a later date.

1918 07 - Electrical merchandising v20 p053.png

NEXT ITEM

Easily Operated Electrically Driven Adding Machine

Direct addition and subtraction without preliminary mental calculations or complicated and indirect mechanical operations can be accomplished



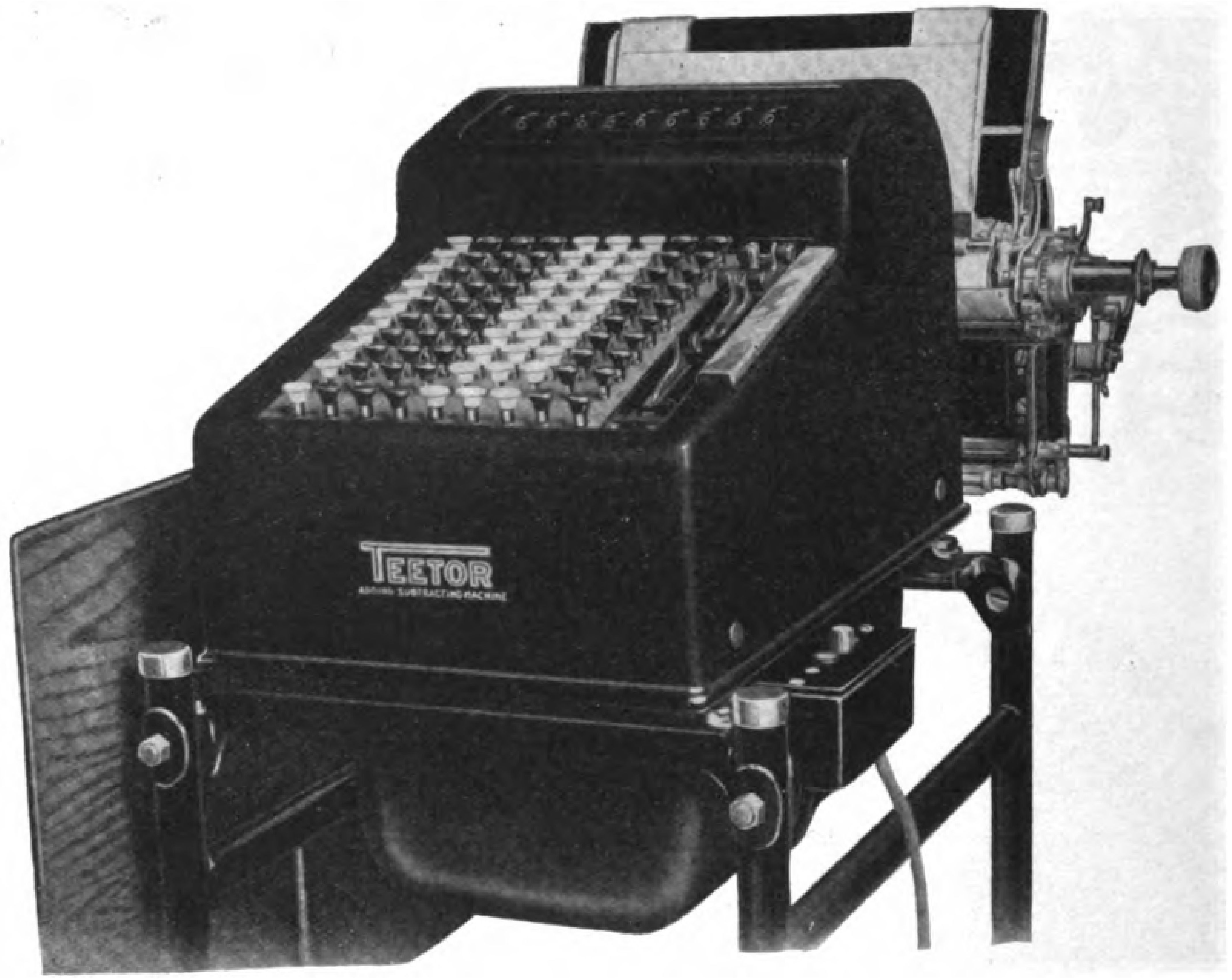
ALL LEVERS AT LEFT OF MACHINE FACILITATE OPERATION

with the adding machine manufactured by the Teetor Adding Machine Company of Des Moines, Iowa. This makes it possible to list debit and credit items as they occur and to obtain the net result at the completion of the operation. All operating levers are on the right of the machine, which leaves the left hand free to turn pages, etc.

A complete line of electric statement machines, bookkeeping machines and special machines for various classes of business is to be offered to the trade at a later date.

NEXT ITEM

TEETOR Adding : Subtracting Listing Machine



Four Features to be Found Only in the TEETOR

TEETOR
Specifications

Positive Lever Control for non-add, repeat, sub-total, total and add-substract operations.

Visible Adding Wheels.

Column Correction Keys.

Electric Drive.

Carriage Shift.

Single and double vertical spacing, or no spacing for tabulating.

1 Direct addition and subtraction accomplished by the machine without preliminary mental calculations or the introduction of complicated or indirect mechanical operations.

2 A simplified unit or sectional system of construction making all parts quickly and easily accessible for adjustment and repair if necessary, assuring to the owner practically uninterrupted service.

3 No spacing stroke necessary before taking total or sub-total.

4 All operating levers are under the span of the right hand, leaving the left hand free to handle ledger sheets, checks, etc.

```
     14.80 ⊤<
    125.16
     43.85
     34.04
    590.00
    203.05 -
     86.97
     69.00
    590.00 -
  1,500.25
     37.13
     69.00 -
     96.05
  1,720.40 ⊤
```

Non-add item with mixed debits and credits listed as they occur.
Credit items are distinguished by minus sign and subtract automatically.
When all items have been entered the machine shows and prints the net balance.

Dealers and specialty men who can point to a successful record in the Adding Machine or Mechanical Accounting field and are capable of managing territory can make a very profitable connection *now*.

Teetor Adding Machine Company
Des Moines, Iowa

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1919 05 - Office Appliances v29 p046 Teetor ad.png

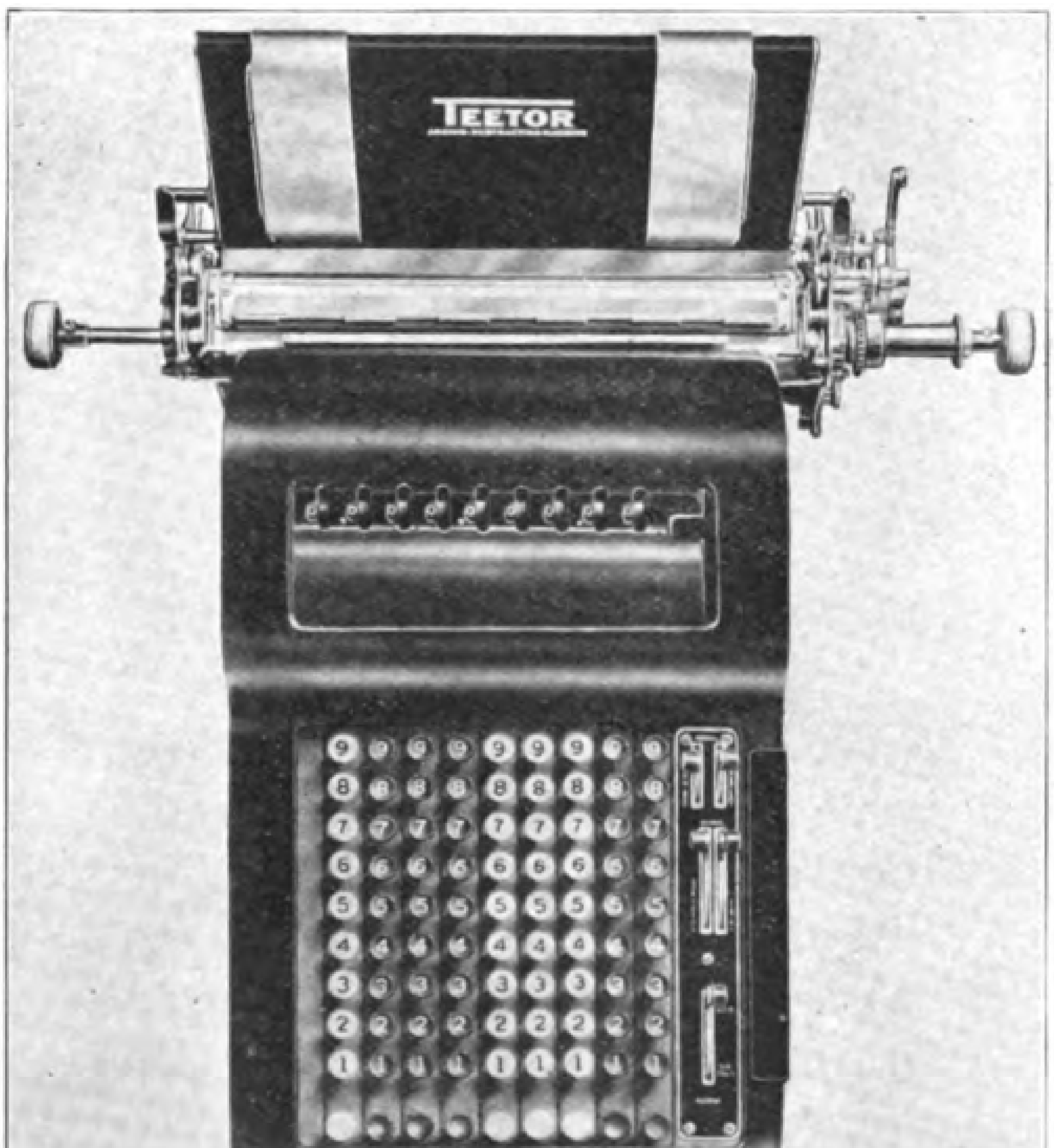
NEXT ITEM

NEW MACHINES and DEVICES

A New Adding Machine.

An adding and subtracting machine has been perfected at Des Moines, Ia., made at present in eight and nine column models. The machine is electrically operated with positive lever control for add, subtract, repeat, non-add, total and sub-total operations. The adding wheels are unusually large and are at the top of the machine directly in the operator's line of vision. The paper carriage, which can be shifted to any position desired, will accommodate paper from 2½ to 7 inches in width. Single and double spacing or no spacing for tabulated work are provided for. All controls are under the span of the right hand. It is not necessary to take a spacing stroke to pull either the total or sub-total. The keys are released before the machine completes one-half its cycle, hence the operator does not have to wait for the machine before putting the next amount into the keyboard.

The machine is of sectional construction and subtracts directly. The entire machine may be taken apart and re-assembled in a few minutes. It adds and subtracts with equal speed, without adding the complement or making a mental or pencil computation. Multiplication is repeated



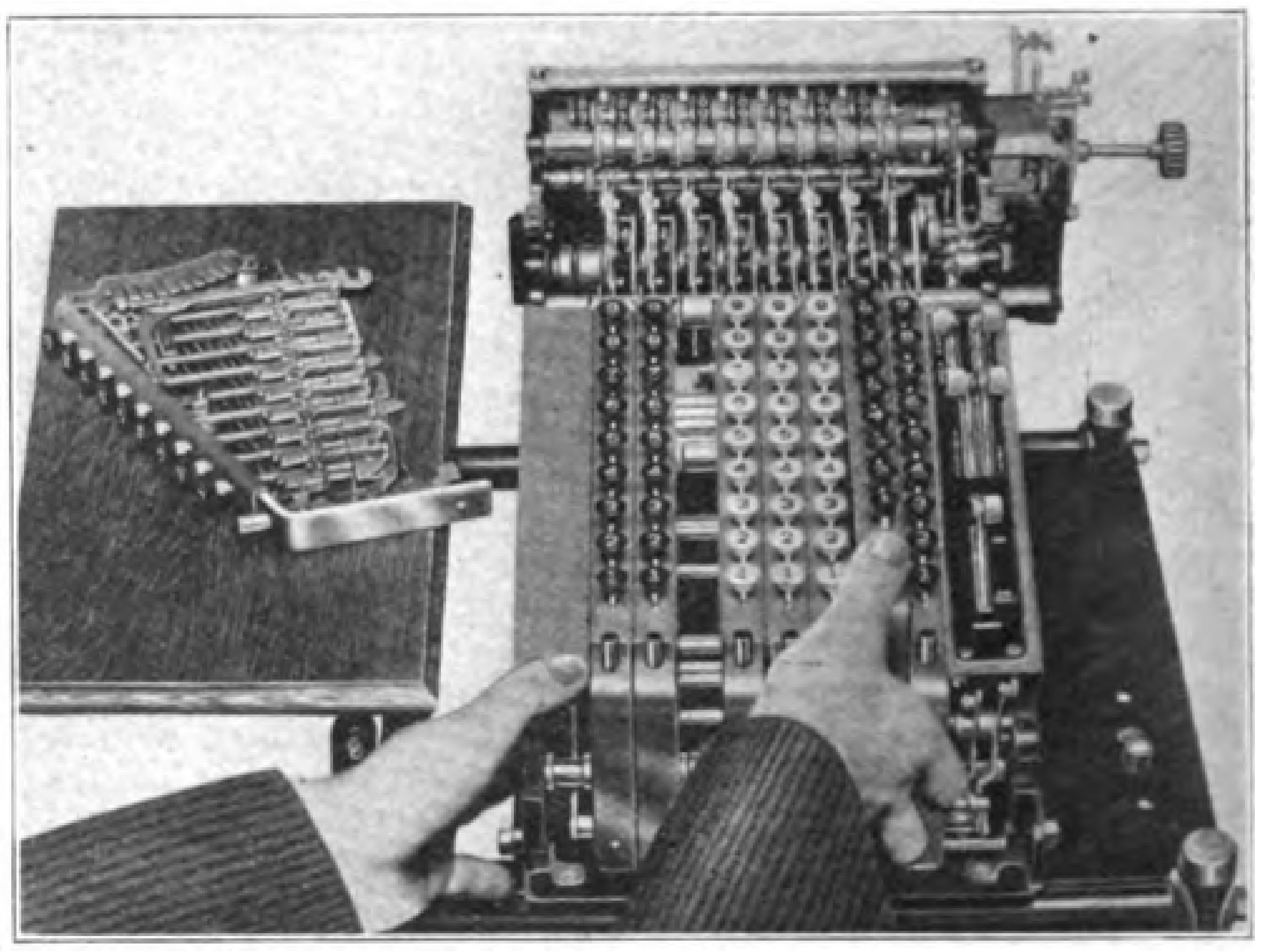
A VIEW OF THE TEETOR ADDING MACHINE FROM ABOVE.

addition; division is repeated subtraction, hence the new machine will perform all four arithmetical operations.

The inventor conceived the idea of a machine for direct addition and subtraction from the operation of the switch engine which will run equally well in either direction, the engineer using merely a reverse lever. He accordingly construed an adding machine, which adds by putting the numbers into the machine and subtracts by a reverse process, which takes them out, the principle being that in subtraction the machine simply works backward while in addition it works forward.

The feature of direct subtraction in an adding-subtracting machine makes it possible to do away with one of the two columns of figures usually employed in posting, since the machine will both add and subtract, taking care of the correct balance step by step.

An instance is recorded in which the feature of direct addition and subtraction brought about a very substantial saving in the bookkeeping department of a large Western oil company, making it possible to reduce by half the number of columns in a book, which, under the old system and from the nature of the business, was made especially large and was therefore expensive and cumbersome. Not only was a saving made in the size of the sheets required, but also in the amount of time consumed in making the postings, since one column did for both debits and credits, the machine making additions and subtractions with equal facility and keeping a perpetual balance.



TEETOR MACHINE WITH COVERING PARTS REMOVED, SHOWING ITS "BANK" SYSTEM OF CONSTRUCTION.

Being built upon the segment principle, the capacity of the machine depends upon the number of banks used, but the more banks there are used the wider must be the base and the greater the number of accumulator wheels.

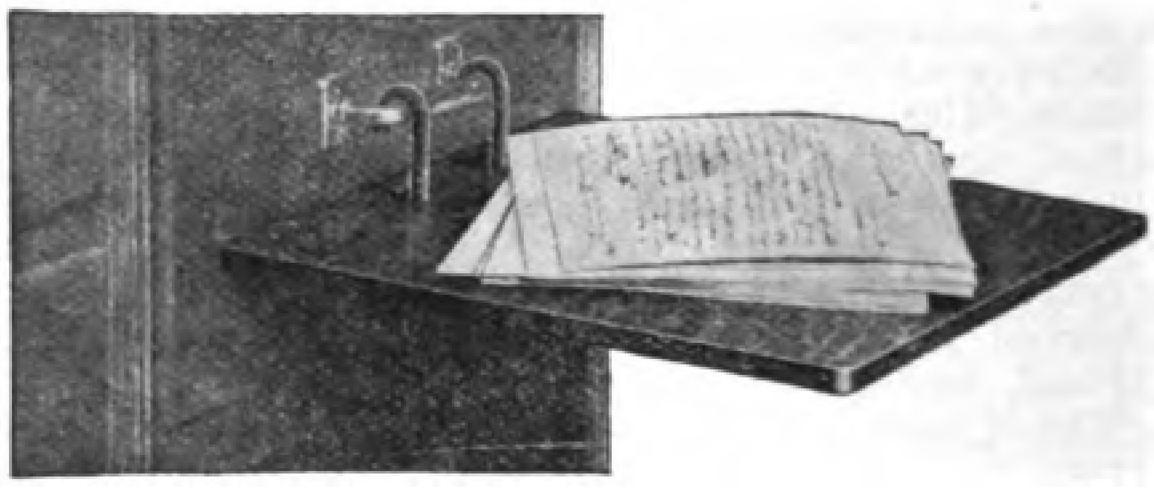
The machine referred to is made by the Teetor Adding Machine Company of Des Moines, Ia.

Slip-Card Wallets for Documents.

The "Slip-Card" wallet is one of the new devices in the field. The wallets are document size, and each is provided with an index card on which can be noted the contents, with space for the receipt of the owner, when he removes the documents from the custody of the institution with which they have been left for safekeeping. The wallet is then ready for further use, upon slipping a new card in the pocket provided. The device is made by the Alvah Bushnell Company, Philadelphia, Penna.

Adaptable Reference Shelf for Vertical Files.

The Adaptable Reference Shelf is a device which suspends from the drawer pulls of the file and can be placed at any level, so that if the filing is being done in the lowest drawer, the shelf can be placed within reach. The



REFERENCE SHELF IN USE.

shelf is made of five-ply double faced quartered oak, light finish. The over all dimensions are 12 in. by 12 in. The hooks are plated in semi-dull bronze, and the ends are rounded, which prevents marring the finish of the cabinet. The Yawman & Erbe Manufacturing Company is the maker.

Fellows "Pocket Efficiency System."

The Fellows Efficiency Bureau, Pittsburgh, Penna., has devised a cardboard folder for pocket use. In it are found

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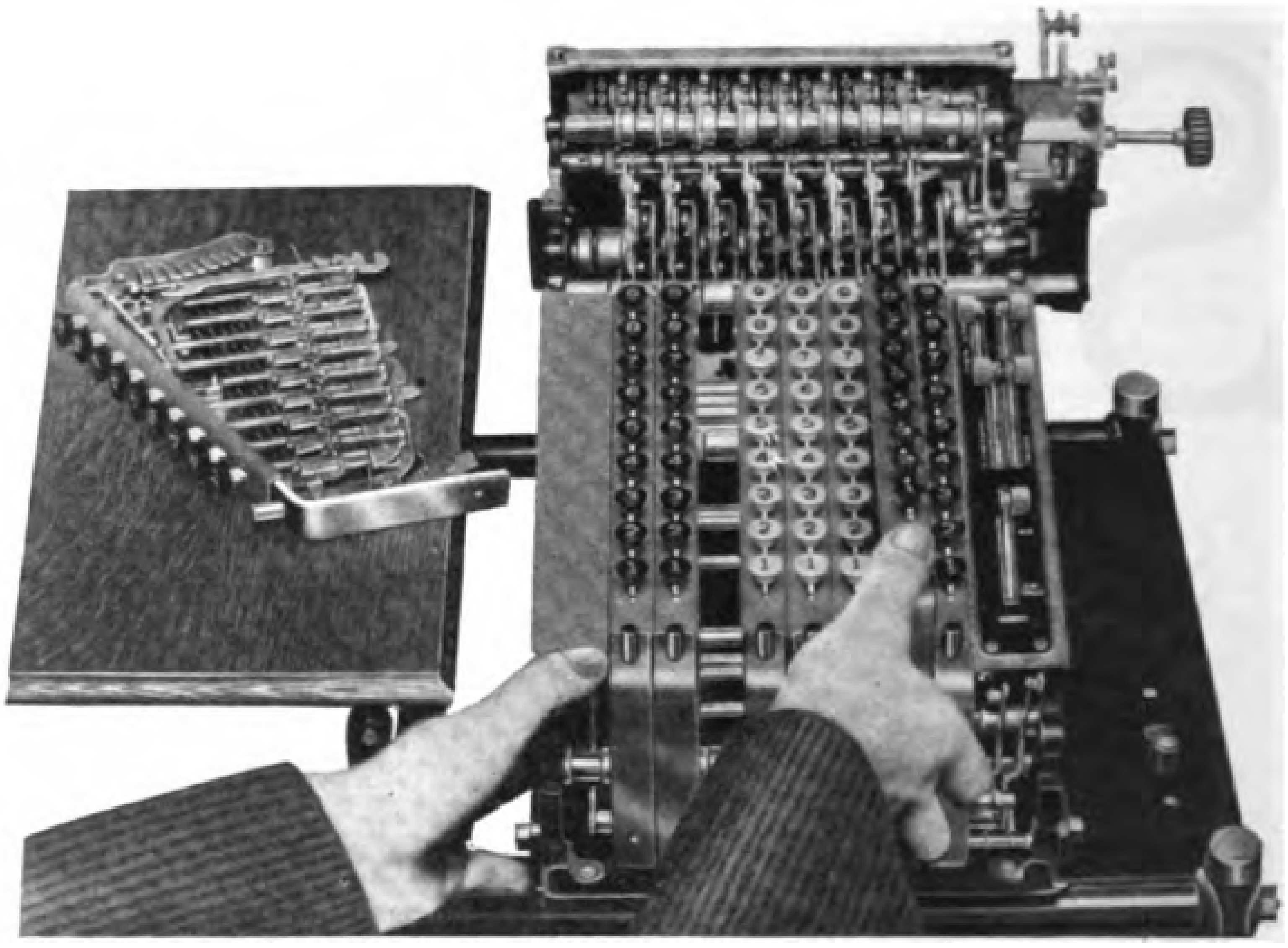
1919 05 - Office Appliances v29 p118 Teetor.png

NEXT ITEM

1919 06 - Office Appliances v29 p046 Teetor ad..png

TEETOR

Adding Subtracting Listing Machine



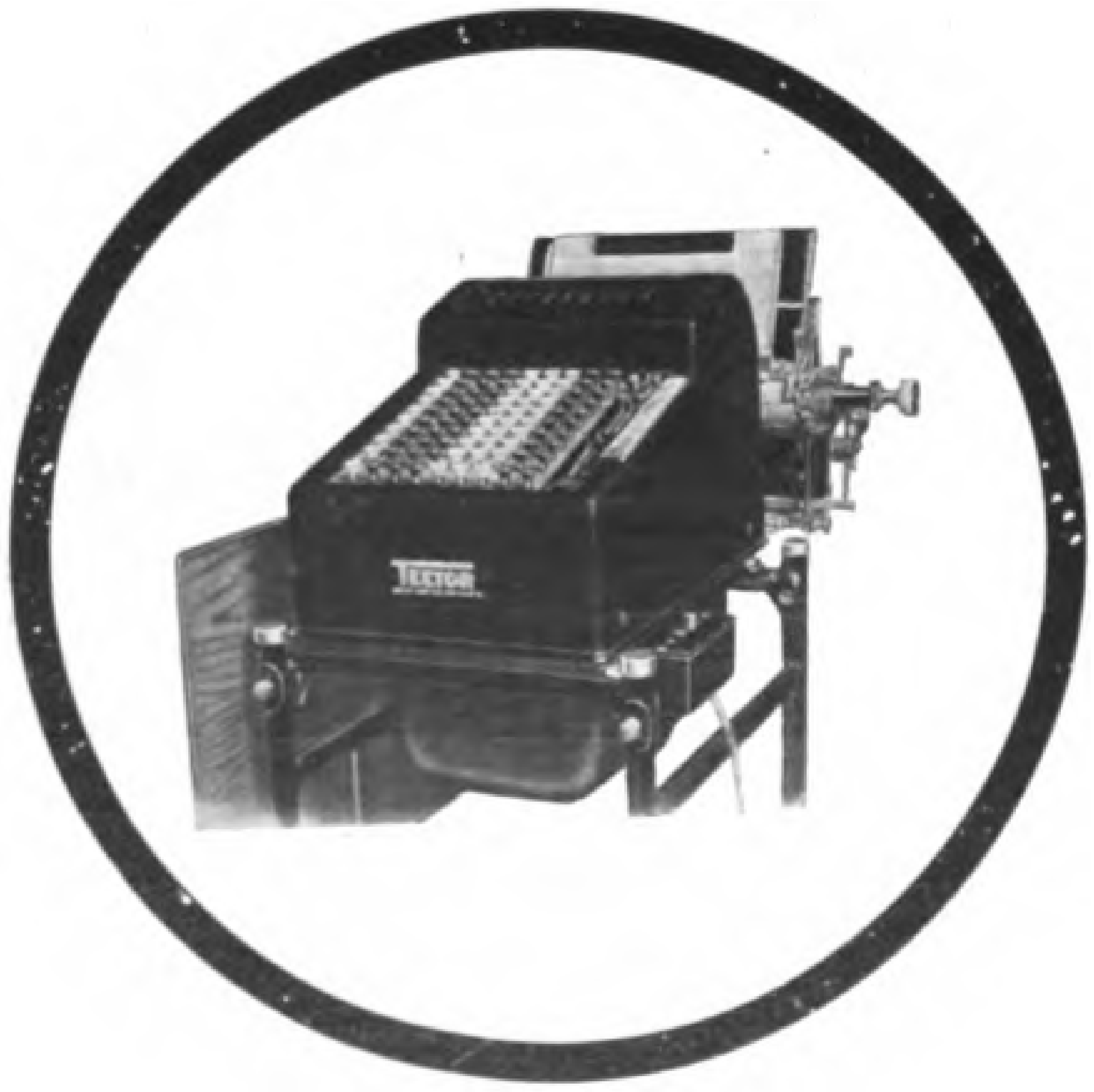
The **sectional construction** of the TEETOR Adding and Subtracting Machine is as great an invention as the adding machine itself.

Every part of the TEETOR is immediately accessible.

The case, paper carriage, hammer section, individual key, type or transfer sections—any or all of them—can be removed quickly and easily without the use of tools, other than an ordinary pair of pliers.

A thoro inspection of the entire mechanism can be made in a fraction of the time, and at a fraction of the cost, necessary for the performance of a similar service where complicated methods of construction are employed.

DIRECT SUBTRACTION makes it possible to list Debits and Credits on the TEETOR, as they occur, and print the net balance without taking the customary spacing stroke.



The TEETOR has greater possibilities, more exclusive features, and covers a wider range of work than any other device of a similar nature.

We are prepared to establish agencies in a number of cities. Correspondence is invited with experienced specialty men who are qualified to develop and manage territories.

Teetor Adding Machine Company

Des Moines, Iowa

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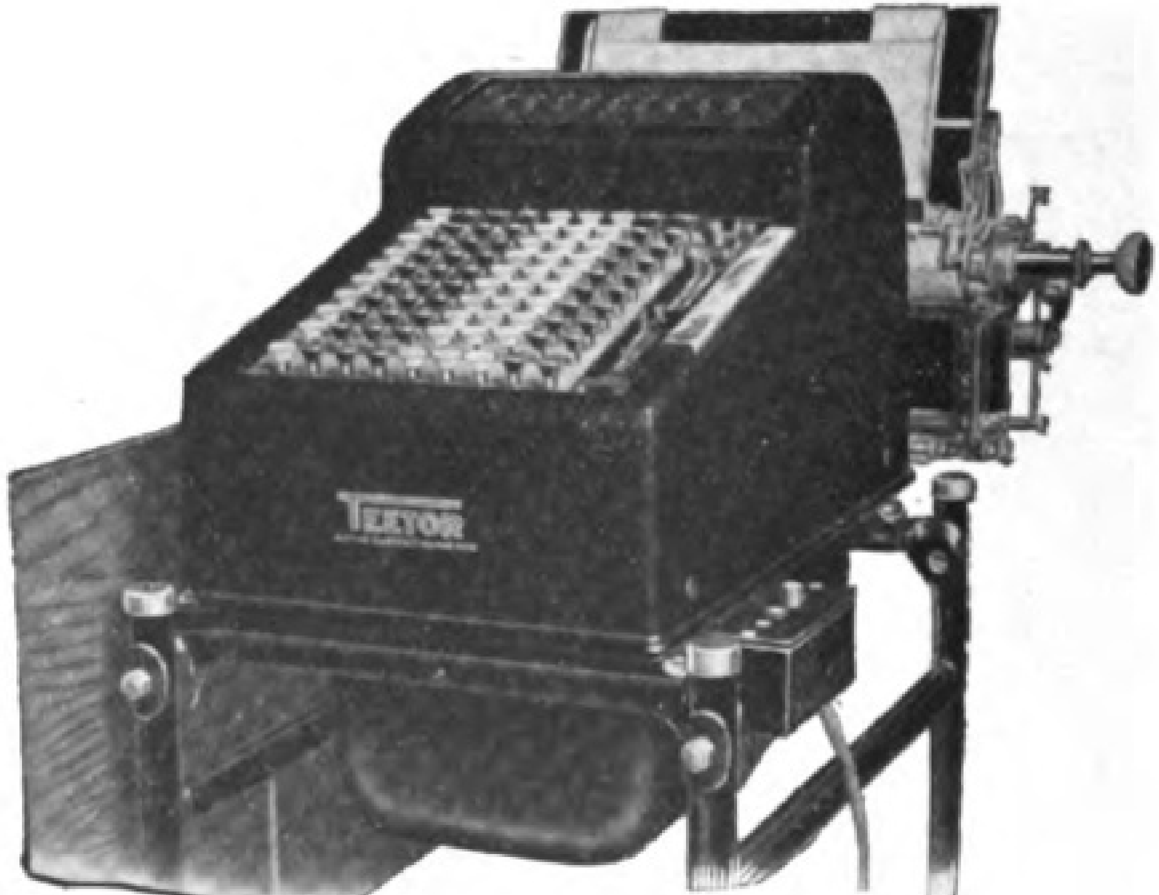
1919 06 - Office Appliances v29 p046 Teetor ad.png

NEXT ITEM

The Teetor Adding-Subtracting Machine

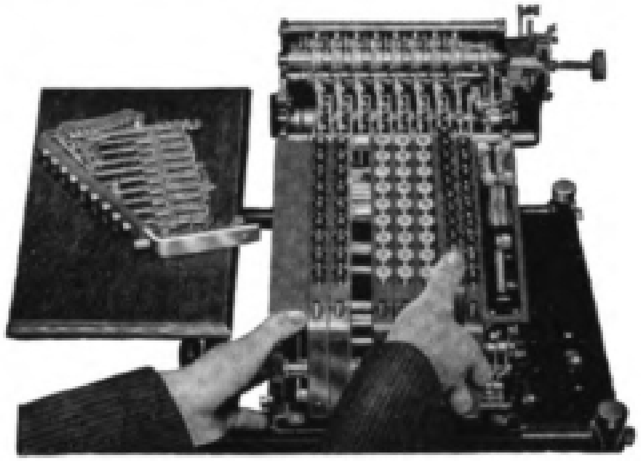


THE "TEETOR" ADDING MACHINE

When the first adding machines were shipped to Des Moines, Iowa, they were far removed from any service station and for that reason it was impossible to have repairs made by the manufacturers.

Martin Teetor, an expert watch maker with the Marquardt Wholesale Jewelry House, was called in by that had given them trouble, and in that way first became interested in adding machines. He was successful in making the necessary adjustments, and for some time after that acted as district service man taking care of all of the adding machines in the vicinity.

As a result of his experience in this connection he became convinced that the design of the machine



THE "TEETOR" WITH CASE REMOVED

could be simplified, and that it needed a subtracting device that would enable it to handle debits and credits. With these ideas in mind he started work on the development of a machine that would be simple and that would both add and subtract in a simple, direct way.

During the next ten years, with the financial aid of a number of Iowa capitalists, Mr. Teetor designed, built and perfected the Teetor Adding-Subtracting Machine.

In December, 1916, the Teetor Adding Machine Company was formed, and is now capitalized at $3,000,000. The plant, modern and thoroughly equipped, covers about 20,000 square feet of floor space and employs 130 people.

Frank S. Cummins was elected Vice-President and General Manager of the company in January, 1917, and the progress the company has made is largely due to his efforts. Mr. Cummins was formerly vice-president of the Harry H. Polk Company, of Des Moines, Iowa, real estate operators, specializing in department houses and sub-divisions. Previous to that

Des Moines and chief engineer of the Des Moines City Railway.

R. M. Winger, general sales manager, was for seven years connected with the National Cash Register Company in the capacities of traveling auditor, sales agent and office manager. He spent one year in the bookkeeping machine business and nine years as salesman and division sales-manager for the Multigraph Company.

At present the Teetor Adding Machine Company is offering eight and nine column models, electrically operated, equipped with positive lever control for add, subtract, repeat, non-add, total and sub-total operations. The adding wheels are unusually large and located on the top of the machine, directly in the operator's line of vision. The paper carriage accommodates any width of paper from 2½ to 7 inches, can be shifted to any desired position, and provides for single or double spacing or no spacing for tabulated work. All controls are under the span of the right hand, leaving the left free to handle the work on the check table. It is not necessary to take a spacing stroke to pull either total or sub-total. The keyboard is fast, the keys being released before the machine completes one-half of its cycle; it is never necessary for the operator to wait for the machine before putting the next amount into the keyboard.

The outstanding features of the Teetor Machine are sectional construction and direct subtraction. Because of the sectional construction all parts of the machine are immediately accessible. If necessary, the whole machine may be taken apart and assembled in a few minutes, thereby effecting an enormous saving of time in case adjustments should ever be necessary, and making real service practical.

The Teetor adds or subtracts with equal facility; it is not necessary to add the complement or make a mental or pencil computation in order to accomplish subtraction. Just as multiplication is repeated addition, so on the Teetor, division is simply repeated subtraction.

1919 06 - Typewriter Topics v61 p142 and 144 - Teetor Adding-Subtracting Machine.png

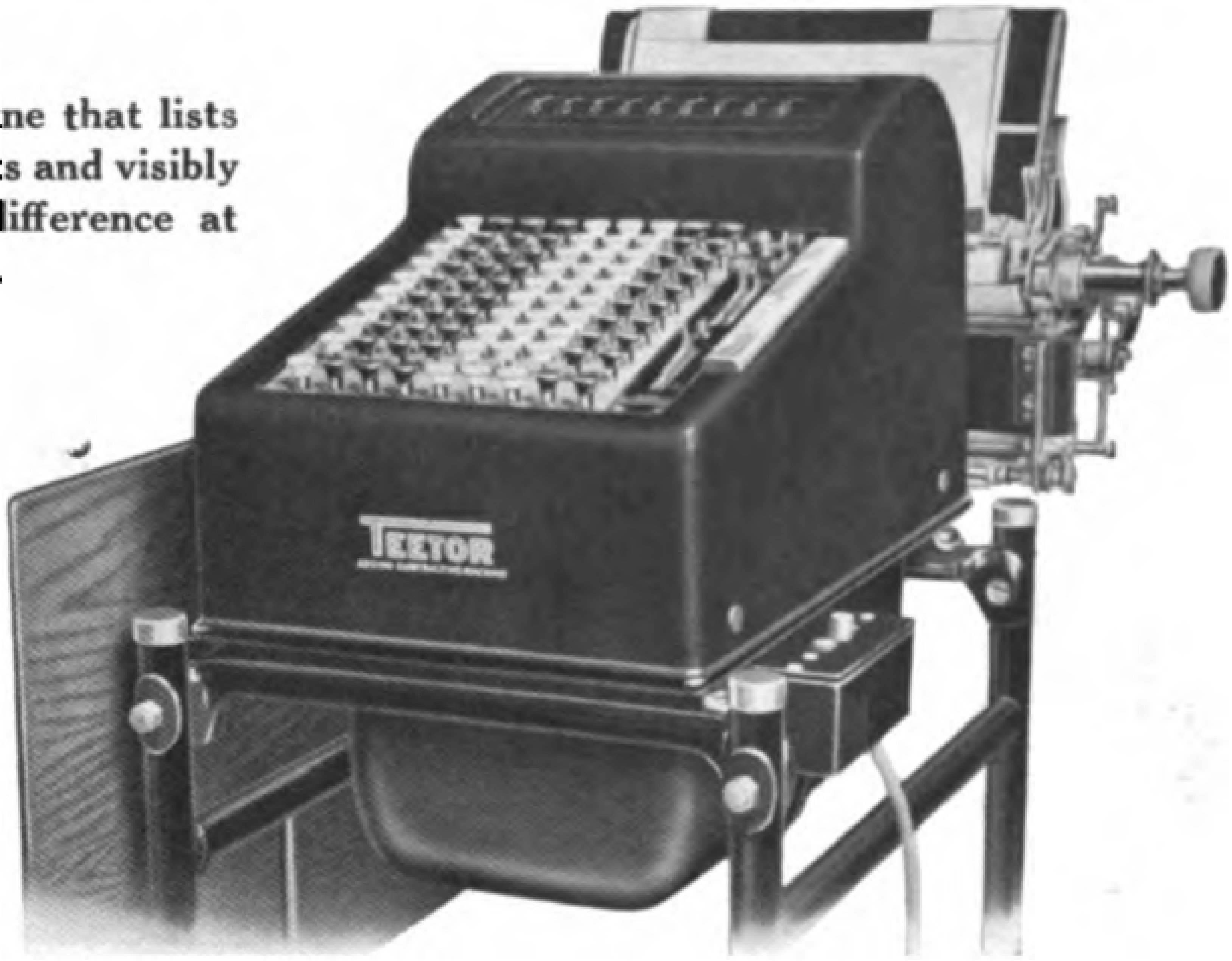
NEXT ITEM

ADDS TEETOR SUBTRACTS

A DEBIT AND CREDIT MACHINE

The *only* machine that lists debits and credits and visibly gives the net difference at every operation.

Direct Subtraction



A general utility machine.

It will balance ledger A/c's and figure a trial balance with one trip thru the ledger.

BUILT IN SECTIONS

ALL PARTS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE

The *TEETOR* is *sectional* in its *construction.* Any part may be replaced in a few minutes. After many years of use worn parts can be replaced at a very small expense. *Sectional construction means 100% service.*

WE INVITE correspondence with specialty salesmen and office specialty concerns. Write or wire for details.

TEETOR ADDING MACHINE CO.

DES MOINES, IOWA, U. S. A.

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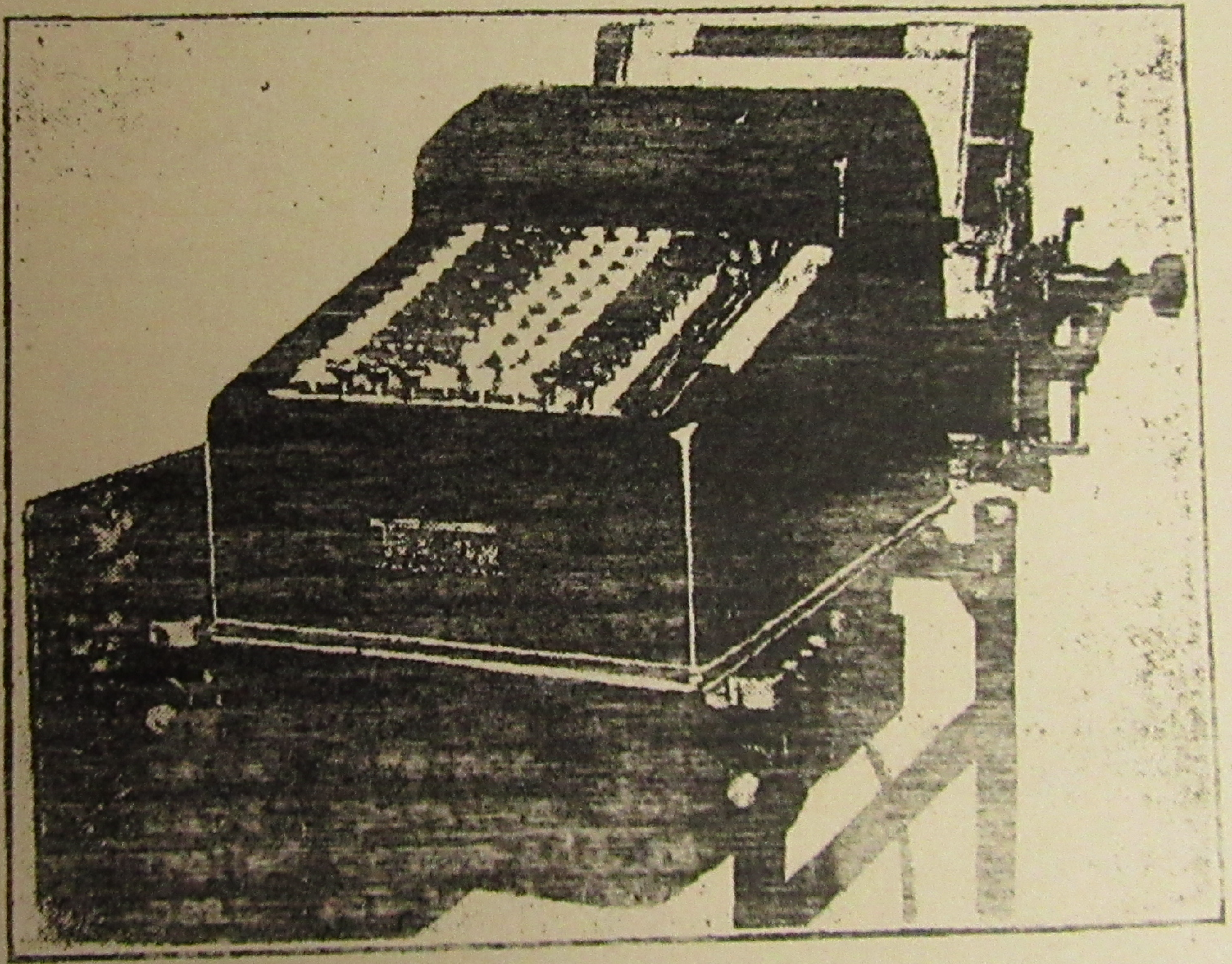
1920 01 - Office Appliances v31 p124 Teetor ad.png

NEXT ITEM

TEETOR

Made by Teetor Adding Machine Company, formerly of Des Moines, Iowa; now located at Pomona, California. Production temporarily suspended.



A full button-key keyboard, electrically operated adding, listing and direct subtracting machine, equipped with wide movable carriage; visible adding wheels, blind printing.

The design embodies sectional unit construction of type and printing sections, with column sections of each unit interchangeable; electric operating motor also serves as a governor. One hand operation controlled by non-add, repeat, sub-total, total and combination add-subtract levers. One color printing, with signals for all feature operations.

Models and Valuations

	Valuation
Made in one model only, 9 columns, electrically operated............	$35.00

1924 - Teetor American Digest of Business Machines p543.png

NEXT ITEM

Smithsonian Libraries

National Museum of American History Library
12th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5016, MRC 630
Washington, DC 20013-7012
http://library.si.edu/libraries/national-museum-american-history-library

Trade Literature at the Smithsonian Libraries:

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Citation and publication:

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When citing materials found in the Trade Literature Collection, please include:

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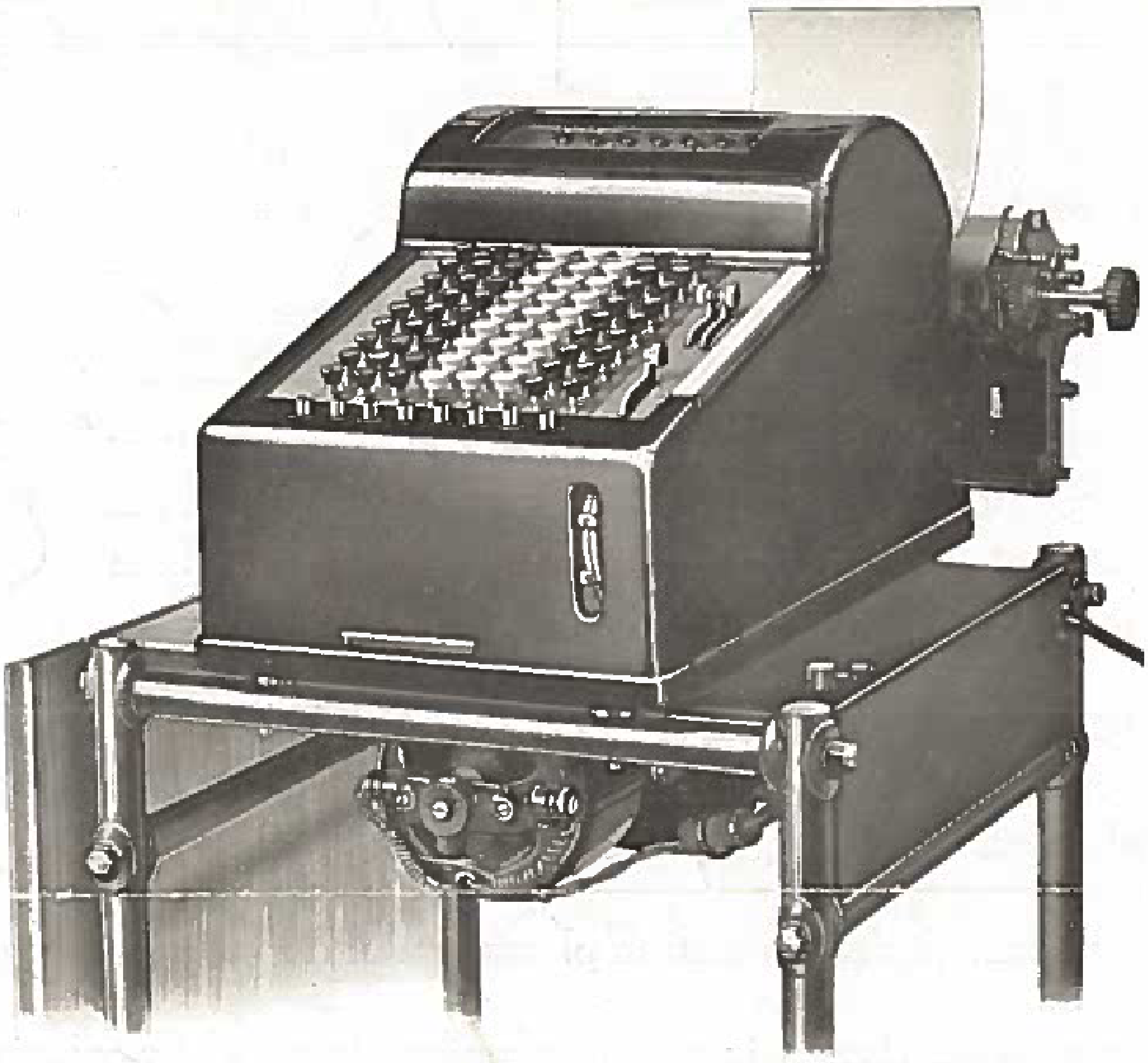
TEETOR

Adding · Subtracting · Listing Machine



Teetor Adding Machine Company

Des Moines, Iowa

brochure Teetor Adding Machine Co - Smithsonian p2.png

Three Features to be found *only* in the TEETOR

1 A simplified unit or sectional system of construction making all parts quickly and easily accessible for adjustment and repair if necessary, assuring to the owner practically uninterrupted service.

2 Direct addition and subtraction accomplished by the machine without any preliminary mental calculations or the introduction of complicated or indirect mechanical operations.

3 No spacing stroke necessary before taking total or sub-total. All operating levers are under the span of the right hand, leaving the left hand free to turn over ledger pages, checks, etc., thereby saving time.

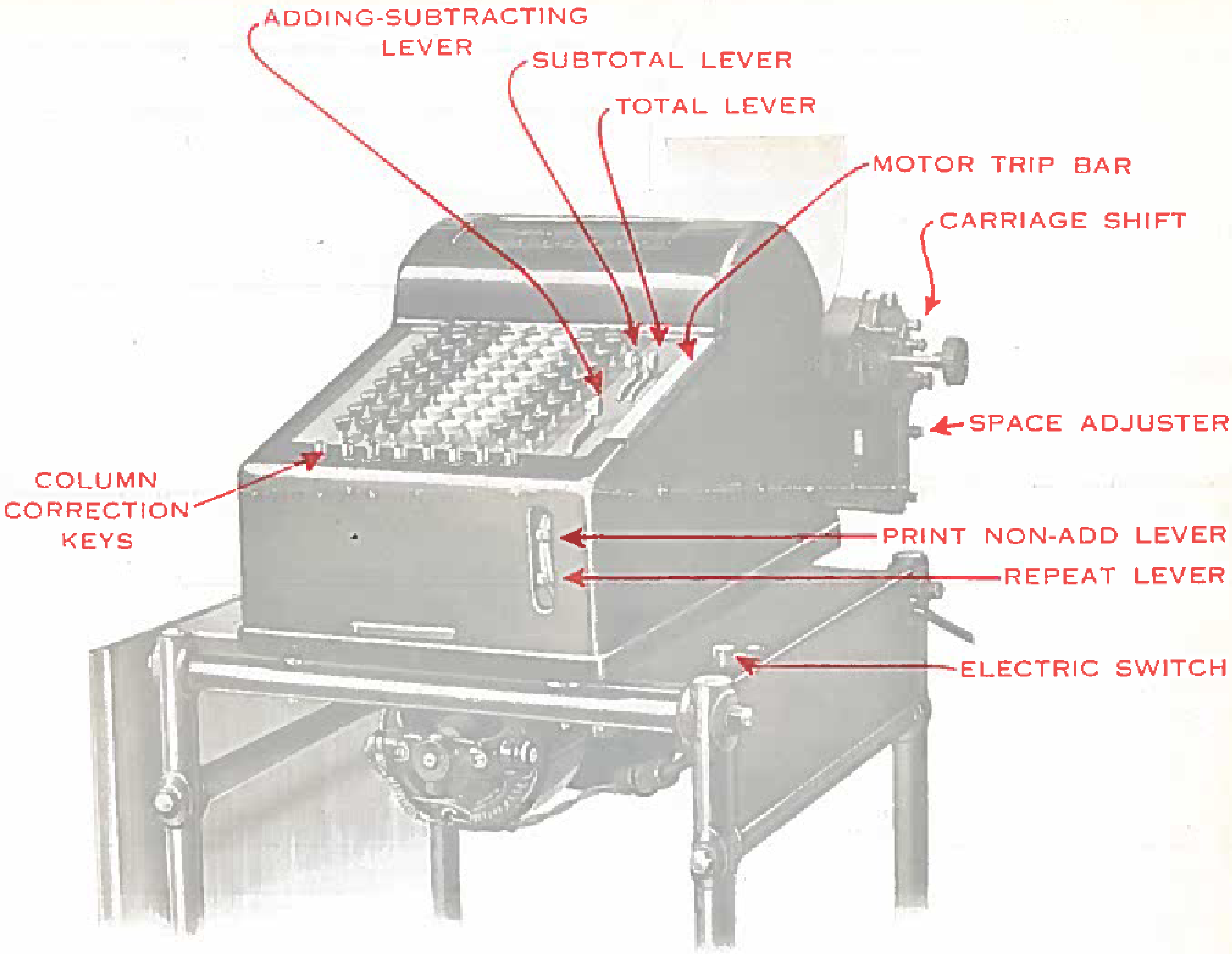
The TEETOR can be adapted to a wide scope of work. It is invaluable for proving trial balances, keeping inventory records, checking stock, balancing ledger accounts and all operations where direct substraction is used.

The TEETOR being a direct drive, additional amounts may be placed in the machine when one-quarter turn of the mechanism has been accomplished, thus speeding up the machine at least fifty per cent.

See this machine. A demonstration places you under no obligation.

The TEETOR 344-E shown in the illustration, is an eight-column electrically driven machine. Price complete, including motor and stand, $350.00.

brochure Teetor Adding Machine Co - Smithsonian p3.png



Debit and credit items may be listed at the will of the operator as they may occur, and net result quickly and easily obtained.

Credit items shown by minus sign —

	T
5.00	
3.00	–
10.00	
67.00	
2.00	–
4.50	–
5.25	
3.50	–
3.75	–
55.75	
50.00	
35.50	–
140.75	T

The TEETOR a positive debit and credit machine

brochure Teetor Adding Machine Co - Smithsonian p4.png

CATALOGUE LIBRARY

TEETOR

Teetor Adding Machine Company

Adding, Subtracting, Bookkeeping Machines

Des Moines, Iowa

122

REFERENCE

sources

sources on internet..png

Some of the internet websites I used to gather information.

Google
https://www.google.com
https://books.google.com
https://patents.google.com

Internet Archive
https://archive.org/details/texts
https://archive.org/details/internationaltoolcataloglibrary
https://archive.org/details/catalogs
https://archive.org/details/manuals

Hathitrust Digital Library
https://www.hathitrust.org

Patents
https://patents.google.com
https://worldwide.espacenet.com
http://www.datamp.org
https://depatisnet.dpma.de
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https://patents.justia.com

Trademarks
https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/search
http://www.ic.gc.ca/app/opic-cipo/trdmrks/srch/
https://www.dpma.de/gebrauchsmuster/recherche/index.html
https://trademarks.justia.com

Personal information
https://www.findagrave.com/
https://www.ancestry.com/search/
https://www.genealogy.com/

sources on internet.png